

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

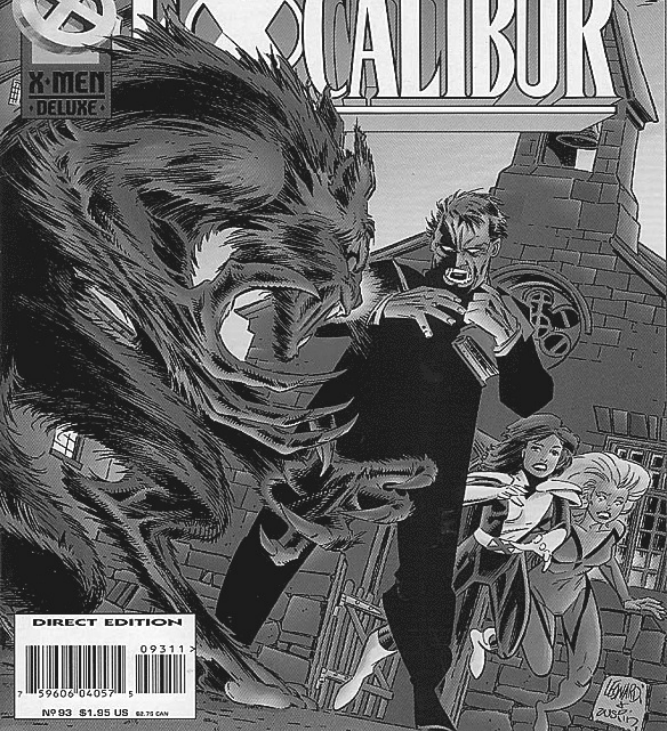
MARVEL
COMICS

JANUARY

RAINE'S REVENGE!

X-CALIBUR

X-MEN
DELUXE



DIRECT EDITION



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The SPIRE

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AS
CHARLES XAVIER
IMPRESSIONS
GO, PETE, THAT
STUNK.

YEAH,
THIS OLD BALD
CAP HONKS A BIT,
TOO. MIND YOU,
I'VE ONLY SEEN
HIM ON THE
TV...

THAT'S
BLASPHEMOUS.

FEELING
BETTER,
PETE?

WELL, I
FEEL LIKE I'VE
BEEN HIT IN THE
HEAD BY A BLOODY
GREAT RUSSIAN,
IF THAT'S ANY
HELP...

NO, MacTAGGERT
KNOWS HER
STUFF.

ASIDE FROM THIS
MILD HEADACHE
AND A TIGHTNESS
IN MY CHEST, I'M
MUCH BETTER,
THANKS.

AND IF YOU QUIT
SMOKING, THE
TIGHTNESS MIGHT
GO, TOO...

I KNOW,
I KNOW...







NOW
THAT I CAN
SEE

IT'S
FIRE, YES,
BUT IT HAS
AN ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
BASIS.

MOIRA
TAUGHT ME HOW TO
SEE THE DIFFERENCE
BY SHOWING ME
SCAN RECORDS OF
PHOENIX USING HER
ABILITIES.

IT'S
BEEN STARTED
PSYCHICALLY.



WHO
BY?

I'M
LEFT WITH
IMAGES OF
TEARS...

... ANGUISH...

... BUT
NOTHING
DEFINITE.



I DON'T
READ MINDS AT ALL,
BUT I DO SORT OF
BRUSH THEM WITH MY
FINGERTIPS...



LET'S
GO HAVE A
LOOK. MEGGAN,
YOU COULD GET
US OVER THERE
QUICKLY?

IF
YOU WANT...
BUT SHOULD
WE TELL THE
OTHERS?

WHY DON'T WE JUST GO
CHECK IT OUT? I'VE GOT
MY COMM LINK ON
IF WE RUN INTO
TROUBLE.





SO,
OKAY --
LET'S TAKE
A LOOK.

KITTY WATCHES
MEGGAN OUT
OF THE CORNER
OF HER EYE.

SHE'D FORGOTTEN THE BEST
THING ABOUT MEGGAN: THAT
MEGGAN ENJOYS HER MUTANT
TALENTS MORE THAN ANYONE
ELSE SHE KNOWS.

THIS
DANCE FEELS
VERY SECURE,
MEGGAN --



FAST SECONDS TO
THE MAINLAND, AN
EYEBLINK TO THE
WOODS ON KNOX'S
LAND --

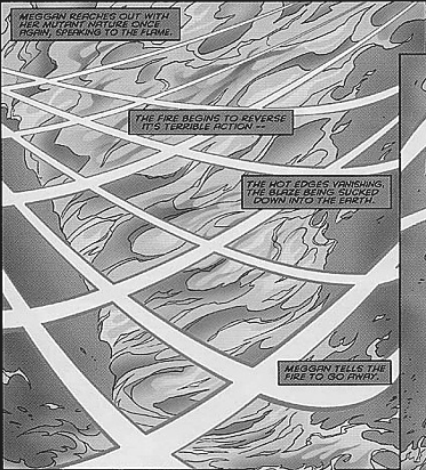
-- THE BRIEF
SKETCH OF
A FIGURE
WITHIN THE
FIRESTORM --



DROP ME
AND I'LL PHASE,
MEGGAN -- WE'LL
NEVER GET CLOSE
OTHERWISE.



DO
YOU MIND IF
I SHOW OFF
AGAIN FIRST,
KITTY?



MEGGAN REACHES OUT WITH
HER MUTANT NATURE ONCE
AGAIN, SPEAKING TO THE FLAME.

THE FIRE BEGINS TO REVERSE
IT'S TERRIBLE ACTION --

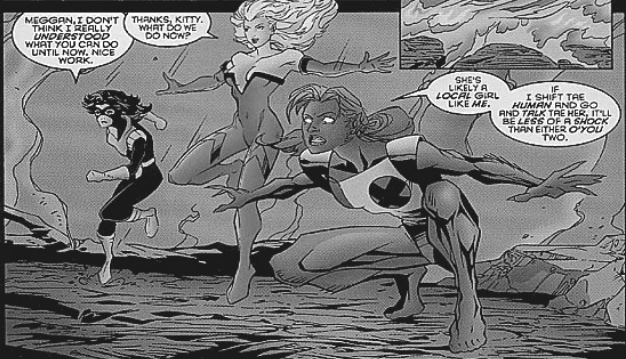
THE HOT EDGES VANISHING,
THE BLAZE BEING SUCKED
DOWN INTO THE EARTH.

MEGGAN TELLS THE
FIRE TO GO AWAY.



AND IT DOES, IN A
CIRCULAR PATTERN,
LEAVING ONLY A
COLUMN OF FLAME
AT ITS CORE...

AND THE GIRL
WHO BIRTHED
THE FIRESTORM.



MEGGAN, I DON'T
THINK I REALLY
UNDERSTOOD
WHAT YOU CAN DO
UNTIL NOW. NICE
WORK.

THANKS, KITTY.
WHAT DO WE
DO NOW?

SHE'S
LIKELY A
LOCAL GIRL
LIKE ME.

IF
I SHIFT TAE
HUMAN AND GO
AND TALK TAE HER, IT'LL
BE LESS OF A SHOCK
THAN EITHER O'YOU
TWO.

THE POOR GIRL ISN'T MORE THAN FOURTEEN, RAHNE THINKS. PERFECT TIME FOR HER MUTANCY TO COME OUT.

HELLO.

MY NAME IS RAHNE SINCLAIR. WHAT'S YOURS?

BRIDGIT... BRIDGIT SHANE.

THAT'S NO 'A LOCAL ACCENT, IF YE DON'T MIND ME SAYING...

NO, ME AND MA FAMILY MOVED UP TO KINROSS FROM EDINBURGH, SIX YEARS BACK.

STAY AWAY...

...I'M A MUTANT.

SO AM I. SEE THIS "X" ON MY TOP HERE?

THAT MEANS I'M A MUTANT WORKING TOWARD'S CO-EXISTENCE.

OCH, AREN'T YE ASHAMED TAE WEAR IT AS A BADGE LIKE THAT?

WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS ONE O' THEM, I WANTED TO HIDE IT --

-- AND I STILL WOULD BE HIDING IT, IF... IF SOMEONE HADN'T FOUND OUT...



THE
REVEREND IN
KINROSS...

...HE SAW
ME LIGHTING HIS
CANDLES FOR HIM
WITHOUT USING A
MATCH...

-- HE
LOCKED ME IN
THE CHURCH WITH HIM
AND TOLD ME I WAS
THE SPAWN OF
SATAN --

-- AN
ABOMINATION --

-- HE
SAID I DISGRACED
MY PARENTS, AND
HE'D DO WHATEVER
NECESSARY TO DRIVE
ME FROM THE
TOWN...

...FROM
THE EARTH IF HE
COULD.



REVEREND
CRAIG!



I WALKED OUT HERE, TO THE
WOODS, AND IT ALL CAUGHT
UP WITH ME, AND I RELEASED
IT AS FIRE...

I SO
WANT TO GO
HOME...



... I'M SO
SCARED...



KINROSS.

THE VILLAGE IS
DOMINATED BY
THE CHURCH,
AND ITS HUGE
DARK SPIRE.

YOU CAN SEE THAT
SPIRE FROM ANYWHERE
IN THE VILLAGE.

IT CASTS A LONG
DARK SHADOW
OVER THE PEOPLE
OF THE TOWN.

WE'RE
PICKING UP EYE-
TRACKS...

I DON'T
CARE.

SHE'S LIVED IN
THE SHADOW
OF THE SPIRE
FOR AS LONG
AS SHE CAN
REMEMBER.

LET 'EM
LOOK.

I'M NAE EMBARRASSED,
AND NOR SHOULD YOU
TWO BE.

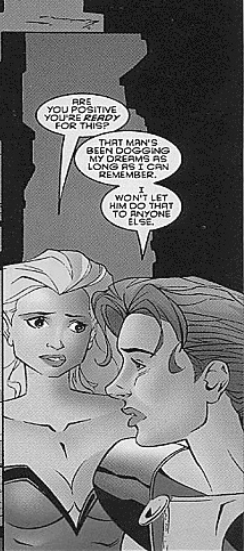


HE'S
IN HERE.

RAHNE, I
KNOW YOU'RE
ANGRY, BUT IS
THIS THE RIGHT
TIME -- ?

YOU'RE
RIGHT, I'M
ANGRY, KITTY,
BUT THERE'S
NO GOING TAE
BE A RIGHT
TIME.

THERE'S
ONLY NOW.



ARE
YOU POSITIVE
YOU'RE READY
FOR THIS?

THAT MAN'S
BEEN DOGGING
MY DREAMS AS
LONG AS I CAN
REMEMBER.

I
WON'T LET
HIM DO THAT
TO ANYONE
ELSE.



THAT
MAN HAD
ME HUNTED,
MEGORN.

HUNTED.
I WAS
FOURTEEN
YEARS
OLD.



I'M
LONG PAST
READY.

THE SILENCE WITHIN IS
A MASSIVE, CRUSHING
THING.

THE WINDOWS FILTER
OUT THE DAY INTO A
PERPETUAL TWILIGHT...

...BARELY BROKEN
BY A WEAK BORDER
OF CANDLES.

THE DOOR SLAMS
BEHIND RAINE, AND
ITS NOISE BECOMES
THUNDER IN THE
ECHOING STONE
PLACE...

GET
YOURSELF
FROM THE
HOUSE OF
GOD!





HER HEART IS IN
HER MOUTH, BUT
HER ANGER SHINES
BRIGHTER THAN
THE CANDLES.

I
HAVE AS
MUCH RIGHT TAE
BE HERE AS YOU,
REVEREND
CRAIG.

YOU
HAVE NO
RIGHT, DEVIL
CHILD.



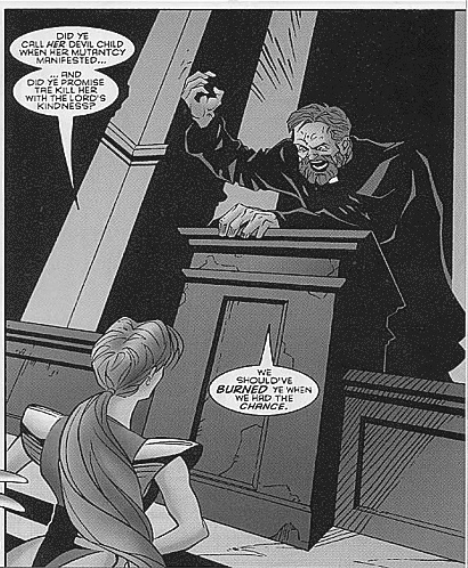
YOUR
VERY PRESENCE
POISONS
THE LORD'S
KINDNESS.

GET
OUT.



IS THAT WHAT YE SAID TO
YOUR NEWEST TARGET,
REVEREND?

THE
GIRL WHO
MOVED TAE KINROSS
FROM EDINBURGH,
IS THAT WHAT YE
SAID TAE
HERP



DID YE
CALL HER DEVIL CHILD
WHEN HER MUTANTCY
MANIFESTED...

... AND
DID YE PROMISE
TAE KILL HER
WITH THE LORD'S
KINDNESS?

WE
SHOULD'VE
BURNED YE WHEN
WE HAD THE
CHANCE.



MAYBE YE SHOULD HAVE, REVEREND.

ALL THOSE YEARS I SPENT AS YOUR WARD, NEVER QUESTIONING, GETTING MY HEAD FILLED WITH YOUR THOUGHTS...

...MAYBE YE SHOULD HAVE BURNED ME BEFORE I MET MOIRA MCTAGGERT.

BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T FILL ME WITH THOUGHTS --

-- SHE SHOWED ME HOW TO FIND INFORMATION FOR MYSELF.

YOU OFFERED NOTHING BUT INDOCTRINATION --

-- BUT I FOUND EDUCATION. I KNOW THE GIRL IS A MUTANT, AS I AM A MUTANT, AND WE'RE NOTHING THE DEVIL.

AND IN ALL THE TIME I'VE BEEN AWAY, WITH YOU STILL IN MY NIGHTMARES, I KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING THAT'D SCARE YOU AWAY FROM ME, REVEREND --

-- INFORMATION.

I KNOW ABOUT YOU.

THERE'S A BIG WILD WORLD OUTSIDE THIS LITTLE TOWN THAT YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT.

WHY WOULD YEP YOU RULE THIS TOWN WITH THE WORD OF GOD -- AS YOU HEAR IT.

BUT OUT THERE IS INFORMATION, IF YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND IT.

I'VE BEEN IN PLACES WHERE YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION THROUGH KEYBOARDS AND PHONE LINES...

...AND I HAVE USED THEM.



YE
HAVEN'T
ALWAYS BEEN
IN KINROSS,
HAVE YE,
REVEREND?



NO,
YOU STARTED
YUR MINISTRY AT
THE PORT OF
ULLEPOOL.



AND
THERE YE
MET MY
MOTHER.



A
DOCK
WORKER'S
WHORE.



SO
YOU
SAY.

YOU
MADE HER
YOUR SPECIAL
PROJECT,
DIDN'T
YE?

OCH,
SHE WAS A
WILD ONE, MY
MOTHER...

SHE
DANCED
ON TABLETOPS
IN LATE NIGHT
BARS...

AND MAYBE I AM MY
MOTHER'S DAUGHTER,
THINKS RAHNE SINCLAIR,
AND SMILES INSIDE...



SO YOU DETERMINED
TO SAVE HER SOUL
WITH ALL THAT FIRE
AND BRIMSTONE
YOU DO SO
WELL --

-- PRAYING
OVER HER ALL
SWEETLY AND
DETERMINED --

-- AND
THEN SHE
"BETRAYED"
YOU BY FALLING
PREGNANT
WITH ME.



MY
MOTHER
DIED IN CHILDBIRTH,
AND... SOMEHOW,
YOU BECAME MY
GUARDIAN.

WHY
WAS THAT,
REVEREND
CRAIG?

WHY
BOTHR WITH
THE CHILD OF
SUCH A
WOMAN?

UNLESS...



BUT
YOU WERE
ABRUPTLY PULLED
OUT OF ULLAPOOL BY
THE CHURCH AND
RELOCATED HERE IN
KINROSS.

SOME
CONSIDERABLE
DISTANCE
AWAY.

WHY
WAS
THAT?

WHY
DO YOU
HATE ME SO
MUCH?

WHY
DO YOU
HATE THAT
LITTLE GIRL,
TOO --

-- WHO
ALSO HAS
RED HAIR LIKE
MY MOTHER
AND I, I
NOTICED.



ARE YOU WEeping, REVEREND CRAIG?

YOU WILL TELL THAT POOR GIRL'S PARENTS THAT YOU MADE SOME DREADFUL MISTAKES.

YOUR SPECTRE HAS HUNG OVER ME FOR YEARS, REVEREND CRAIG. I HAVE DREAMT YOUR HATRED AND YOUR FIERY TORCHES FOR TOO LONG.

THIS IS MY FIERY TORCH, REVEREND CRAIG -- I KNOW ABOUT YOU.



MAY GOD STRIKE YOU DOWN.



THE WOMAN, RAHNE SINCLAIR, TURNS AND LEAVES THE CHURCH.

THE CANDLES BURN DOWN. THERE IS NO LIGHTNING.



AND REVEREND CRAIG IS LEFT ALONE IN AN EMPTY BUILDING.



END

SWORD STROKES

Dear Suzanne,

Oh my! Not only was it nice to see Larry Stroman's dynamic and always entertaining pencils again in a X-related series, but EXCALIBUR #88 also was without a shadow of a doubt one of the very best issues to hit the shelves in the past years. Especially with writer Warren Ellis taking Kitty and Pete to Central London, this issue was a true winner in more ways than one.

Furthermore, I really enjoyed the way this issue's tale was told. From the intriguing and mysterious beginning (with Wisdom receiving a cry for help from his old mate Culley), it was already obvious this wouldn't be standard super hero fare, but something altogether different. Kitty and Pete's search for Culley continued in a very relaxed and enjoyable fashion, while back at Excalibur's home base we got to see some highly interesting developments as well. Moira seems to become more and more important as a character and as part of the team (sort of), and considering the fact she has the Legacy Virus, I'm glad Warren Ellis is giving her more attention now.

Of course, with most of this issue's tale being rather a prelude to what's to come in the upcoming two chapters of the storyline called "Dream Nails," I was glad to see that some action and intrigue was slipped in anyway in the final scene. From the looks of it, the Black Air organization is going to play an important role in the upcoming issues, which would be just what the doctor ordered, since we don't know all that much about them, after all.

In other words, I have really enjoyed reading this issue and it has made me quite hungry for more. It's good to see EXCALIBUR is back on the upswing again, now providing more interesting and offbeat stories, undoubtedly aiming to please the readers. Guess what? It's working like a charm!

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands
Europe

So good to hear from you again, Olav. You've brought up some interesting points, as usual. Black Air, as you'll see next issue when we bring you "DAYS OF FUTURE TENSE"—a visionary tale of the fate of Excalibur—will be extremely influential in the future of England, Excalibur—and all of England, in fact!

And there's no "sort of" to it when you talk about Moira being part of the Excalibur team. As we're seeing more and more, the battleground is both on the field and in the lab!

Dear Sword Strokes,

First of all, thank you for printing my (somewhat critical) letter in issue #83. This was also Warren Ellis's first issue as writer and I'd like to let you know exactly what I think of his work now: it's pretty darn good! The Soulsword Trilogy, the Genosha two-parter, and the X-CALIBRE issues, in particular, were all compelling reads, full of surprises and, most importantly, good characterization.

Kurt and Mystique on good terms and fighting side by side was possibly my favorite twist out of the entire 'After Xavier' saga; hearing Kurt call her 'Mom' was positively eerie! His novel use of Nightcrawler's teleportation powers to...uh, "remove" his opponents' heads was an image I shan't soon forget, either!

One of my main bones of contention in my previous letter was the post-Alan Davis portrayal of Brian and Meggan, and so I'm ecstatic to see that Mr. Ellis has ditched the "ego on steroids" and "Shakespearean speech" and has in a short time made Brian a believable and likeable human being once again. However, Meggan still needs some work. Apart from the revelation of her new powers, this character has been constantly neglected and relegated to the background over the last couple of years. If Brian is returning to his old self, then it makes sense that Meggan should do the same.

Bring back to the fore the naive and innocent, yet strong and determined character that used to grace these pages. The first step in doing this needs to be the artistic representation of her: some artists seem intent on making her a stony-faced and somewhat austere figure with blank eyes! My plea is this: make her elfin-like and sexy again, with normal eyes (they convey so much character, don't you know!).

Additionally, an issue which concentrates on the individual team members interacting as friends would be welcome. The deep friendship between Kitty and Kurt had been strongly established, but how do Kurt and Brian, Kitty and Meggan, Meggan and Rory, Brian and Douglock, etc., get on? We know how the team works together, but how do they play together? Don't forget, some of the best ever issues of the X-Men were the ones which showed us the characters taking time off together!

One closing remark: Mr. Ellis has created the perfect sparring partner for Kitty in Pete Wisdom. I'm really enjoying this title again.

A.D. Musgrave
(Address withheld by request)

So, A.D., did you enjoy Excalibur's night out two issues ago? Hope so. You're right—it's great to see the characters 'mix

and mangle' in different combinations. Thanks for the reminder, though—we need all the help we can get!

And as far as Brian goes, we think you're on the money about that, too. Brian's had a lot on his mind, but he's starting to get himself together, but then again, there's next issue... Oops, almost let the cat out of the bag. You're good, Mr. Musgrave... very good.

Dear 'Strokes,

I have been following EXCALIBUR since day one, my favorite issue being the Alan Davis "Mutant Genesis" era. My favorite members: Rachel "The Phoenix" Summers and the "classic" Captain Britain/Meggan combo.

However, change is good; it prevents stagnation.

I appreciate the new "darker" direction in which Mr. Ellis is trying to push EXCALIBUR. May I offer some ideas ('cuz I'm gonna anyway...)?

Let Britanic and Meggan go...let them return to their former glory elsewhere in the Marvel Universe. Rahne is a logical addition to the team, and also Dani "Mirage" Moonstar would be a good addition. Dani and Rahne at one time shared a mental bond. Dani's mutant ability to draw illusionary nightmares from people seems like a natural for EXCALIBUR.

Also, it would be good to see Rictor, another old teammate enter into these pages to clarify and resolve his relationship with Rahne.

And for the ultimate in darkness, how about the resurrection of Magick/Ilyana. Especially if it's true that Colossus will be joining the team.

Imagine the potential in a line-up that consisted of Nightcrawler, Shadowcat, Colossus, Magick, Mirage, Rictor, Rahne and Douglock. Truly a dream team for your darkest nightmares...

John M. Kemble
15825 Leary Way #107
Redmond, WA 98052

Glad you took the bold step to let us know what you think, John. After all, you guys are the *real* editors...

So...after reading this issue, John, guess ya can tell we're doing more than *imagining* when it comes to dealing with the old New Mutants recruits. Rahne's spotlight *this* issue was just the beginning for her. She's going to be up to her canines in new friends—and old—coming to Muir!

And speaking of the ol' New Mutants gang, check out Mirage as Pete Wisdom's cunning cohort in issue #94!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Well, here it is. It's the first word to the continuing adventures of Shadowcat. Maybe someday we will see her in a video game. Thanks and continue the "marvelous work on my 'Pryde' and joy of the X-Men titles!

Steven J. Becker
(Address withheld by request)

Oh, Steven, Kitty's blushing...
1. So, you like the new costume. Great! We thought it was time Kitty's look reflected the adventurous, self-assured young woman she has become. Carlos Pacheco is coming on board as EXCALIBUR'S regular penciler and he'll probably want to take her even a little further in this direction. Warren and he have been cookin' up some surprises that are sure to please!

2. She's got action coming out her ears—maybe she can use that to fight the Phoenix when they find the signal that leads them straight to Earth—oops! Did we just say that? You're getting us in trouble, Steven. Do you know A.D. by chance?

3. We're sure he'd be very proud—and very suspicious of this Pete Wisdom character...
4. That's a toughie, Steven. Experience over chutzpa? Phasing over psychic knives? Let's just say we wouldn't want to be anywhere near that showdown...

Well, I have to run. I look forward to the continuing adventures of Shadowcat. Maybe someday we will see her in a video game. Thanks and continue the "marvelous work on my 'Pryde' and joy of the X-Men titles!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Steven J. Becker
(Address withheld by request)

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3. We're sure he'd be very proud—and very suspicious of this Pete Wisdom character...

4. That's a toughie, Steven. Experience over chutzpa? Phasing over psychic knives? Let's just say we wouldn't want to be anywhere near that showdown...

Dear Sword Strokes,

EXCALIBUR has grown into a mighty fine book. Good job, let me tell you what I think of the team.

Nightcrawler—I like him better since he's taken over the leadership of EXCALIBUR. I like him.

Shadowcat—Definitely belongs on EXCALIBUR. Her powers are very cool. Keep her.

Meggan—She never really was one of my favorites. Have her go out on a mission and never come back. That'd be cool.

Douglock—My favorite EXCALIBUR member. I like the way you're trying to make him more human. Have a few solo stories of him and someone else on a mission.

Britanic—Brian is way cooler this way. I like the flashforwards he has. I really like the new costume. Good job.

Moir MacTaggart—Too bad about her contracting the Legacy Virus. Sha's neat and a good human addition to the team.

Rory—You really need to improve upon this guy. I hope he doesn't become Ahab. He should interact more with the members.

Now for some questions:

- 1) Is Peter Wisdom joining the team? If he does, don't give him a costume, but give him a cool code name.
- 2) I heard rumors Colossus and Wolfsbane are joining. Is this true? I hope so. EXCALIBUR needs more members.

Ryan Carroll
155 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890

Thanks for the eval, Ryan. Sounds like we're doing okay!

Poor Meggan, off by her lonesome? In your "ultimate EXCALIBUR" does she at least get to bring a friend? Maybe a few good books, now that she can read?

You're right about Rory needing to interact more. Let's see what he's learned from his near fatal accident with Spoor.

By now you should know the answers to your questions—that is, if you've been keeping up with your required reading... If not, what are you waiting for?! We can't keep everybody else waiting while you catch up—not when Brian's about to find out Douglock holds the key to our future—and we're not talking about the Legacy Virus stuff—OH NO! We did it again. That's it! We're outta here before we tell you that you'd better not miss next issue because it's directly tied into the X-MEN epic storyline DAYS OF FUTURE PAST! Too late! So... we might as well tell you the sketches you're seeing are by our fabulous penciler, Casey Jones for next issue, titled DAYS OF FUTURE TENSE, by wondrous Warren Ellis. See ya in thirty!

EXCALIBUR Days of Future Tense

TAKING



C/O MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
387 PARK
AVENUE SOUTH
NY, NY 10016

⊗
If you don't
want your
full name
and address
printed,
be sure to
tell us!

SUZANNE
GAFFNEY
EDITOR

BOB
HARRAS
CHIEF

DESIGN BY CORY JONES

EXCALIBUR!

PENCILLED AND
INKED BY
MIKE MILLER,
COLORED BY
JIM HOUSTON





I'M... NOT
SURE.

I
THOUGHT I SAW
SOMETHING, OVER
ON THE MAINLAND,
LIKE A FIRE, OR AN
EXPLOSION...

I DID A
PARTIAL CHANGE,
THE SHARPEN UP
MR EYESIGHT,
BUT...



LET ME TRY
SOMETHING.



I CAN ACTUALLY
SEE AND HEAR THE WORKINGS
OF ALL NATURAL FORCES, EVEN
ELECTROMAGNETICS. THAT MEANS
I COULD SEE PSYCHIC
COMMUNICATIONS...

MOIRA
AND I HAVE BEEN
DOING SOME TESTING
OF MY POWERS RECENTLY,
TRYING TO GET A HANDLE
ON WHAT I CAN AND
CAN'T DO.

WE
KNOW I'M AN
EMPATHIC SHAPESHIFTER,
SENSITIVE TO THE WAY
PEOPLE SEE ME, BUT
MOIRA THINKS I MIGHT
"GROW OUT"
OF THAT.

ANYWAY, IT'S
NOT AS INTERESTING
AS THE ELEMENTAL
STUFF.

SO,
IF WE'RE RIGHT,
I CAN SORT OF
THROW MY EYESIGHT
ACROSS THE
WATER --

-- YES, I'M
IN WOODLAND,
DARK OLD TREES
AND FIRE --

-- FIRE,
LEAPING FROM
TREE TO TREE,
TORCHING
EVERYTHING...

-- A
DETONATION,
A SCREAM, ONE
SCREAM --

-- I'M
PULLING
OUT --